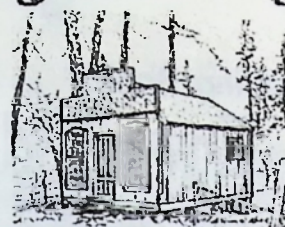


Newsletter of the

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY

February 2003



10TH ANNUAL BUNCOM DAY SET FOR MAY

Havin' a Great Time with the Trail Band



Saturday night, Dec. 7, was the date and Medford's Craterian Theater was the place. Once again, dozens of members of our Society gathered to kick off the Christmas season with music by The Trail Band. The annual performance by the band has become a regular event for our members, with potluck hors d'oeuvres and desserts at a private reception before the show.

This year was a double celebration as Trail Band night fell on Society President Reeve Hennion's birthday, so he had a built-in birthday party with 750 guests.

Shown enjoying the festivities are Warren Merz, Jim Trzop, Ann and Tam Moore, and Craterian development director Maureen Esser.

Our yearly get-together will reach a milestone

It's hard to believe, but this year is the 10th anniversary of Buncom Day. It's set for Saturday, May 24, so be sure to mark your calendars.

Planning for the big event is well underway. There will be many of the features we all enjoy and have asked for again (need we say, Chicken Splat Contest, or Rose Marie Leever's Country Store?), and some new surprises.

With the latest work on the Bunkhouse, detailed in our last issue, it will be an opportunity to see Buncom as it was before the buildings started falling into disrepair.

In our May issue we will tell about the history of Buncom Day, from the yard sale in 1994 that attracted a few dozen people to our amazingly successful Centennial celebration in 1996, and all the other great years.

If you are interested in participating as an exhibitor, give a call to any of the directors listed later in this newsletter. We're especially interested in local craft vendors, community exhibits, and anything else that will make for an enjoyable family day.

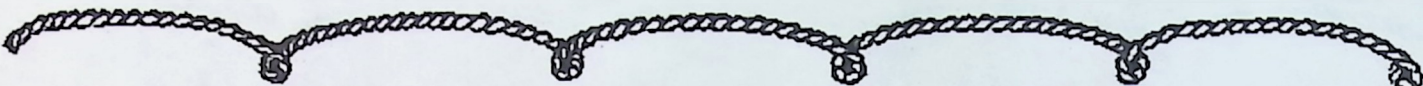
And if you want to be in the parade this year, you don't even have to let us know in advance. Just show up, and when the call goes out for those who want to participate, just join in.

And as always, there will be a work party to get Buncom ready. It's scheduled for Saturday, May 17, at 10 a.m.

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY
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Jacksonville, OR 97530

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Eagle Point, OR 97524



Looking Back:

How Did Buncom Get Its Name?

The question comes up often -- How in the world did our town get a name like Buncom? -- and since a member asked recently, we thought we would tell what we know.

The short answer is, we don't know where the name Buncom came from. The first official mention of the name is in 1867, when maps identified the Buncom Mining District, during Southern Oregon's gold rush period.

But there are plenty of theories, and here are the most prominent:

-- Buncom was where they "bunked 'em," the gold miners.

-- Buncom was a lot of "bunk" or where a miner got "buncoed" in a deal. (This couldn't apply to the presence of gold, though, because plenty was mined around Buncom.)

-- There apparently were people from North Carolina who came to Southern Oregon about that time, and Buncom was named for Buncombe County, NC (where Roanoke is located).

-- The book "Oregon Geographic Names" and long-time resident Dean Saltmarsh share a theory recorded in the Jacksonville Nugget, which interviewed Saltmarsh in 1978: "It came from the Chinese. Old lady Buck told me herself. We were wondering who the hell Buncom was, or what?? She said the Chinese couldn't pronounce the name of a man ... a funny sounding came out, something like Buncom. So they got to saying, there goes old Buncom!! Pretty soon they got a post office and it's been called Buncom ever since."

What's your favorite? Got another theory? Let us know about it.

TAX CREDIT STARTS WITH BUNCOM GIFT

Your gift to Buncom could be the first step in helping build Oregon's Cultural Trust and receiving a tax *credit* for doing so.

Last year, Oregon launched the Cultural Trust, an endowment fund that will provide a protected, permanent source of funding for cultural programs throughout the state. A major portion of the funding for the Cultural Trust is coming from individuals and businesses -- at no cost to them -- through a simple tax credit program.

To take advantage of this credit, first make a gift to one or more cultural non-profit organizations of your choice (yes, the Buncom Historical Society qualifies). Then make a matching gift to the Oregon Cultural Trust. When it comes tax time, your gift to the Cultural Trust is offset by a 100% tax credit up to \$500 for individuals (\$1,000 for a couple) or \$2,500 for corporations. In effect, this tax credit allows you to direct a portion of your tax bill to support arts, heritage and humanities programs in Oregon.

Actually, if you itemize your deductions, your gift to the Cultural Trust gives you a double benefit because it is deductible at the federal level while still giving you the 100% credit from the state.

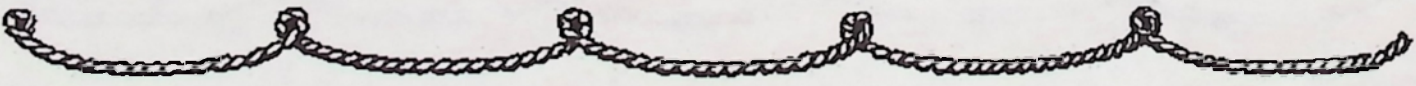
To find out more, check out www.culturaltrust.com.

Babe Fields

Another Applegate pioneer passed away in November. Charles Lewis (Babe) Fields died at the age of 90.

He was born in Provolt in 1912 and owned and operated three sawmills in the area, the last of which was Fields and Stone in Williams. He was also a rancher and raised cattle.

Babe was a valued member of the Society and contributed stories about the history of the area. We always enjoyed having him join us at Buncom Day.



"When Spring Has Come"

By Rebecca Lynn Kraemer

You know when spring has come,
When you see the birds start their fun.
They busily gather twigs to build their nest.
And try as they might, do do their best.

You know when spring has come
When the river, again, starts to run.
It laughs and plays
And once more feels the warming sun rays.

You know when spring has come
When the sun has finally won,
And the birds are singing
And the river is ringing.

But most of all ...

You know when spring has come
When winter is final and done.
And the flowers are in bloom,
And spring has overcome the winter's gloom,

As we are to overcome evil with good.

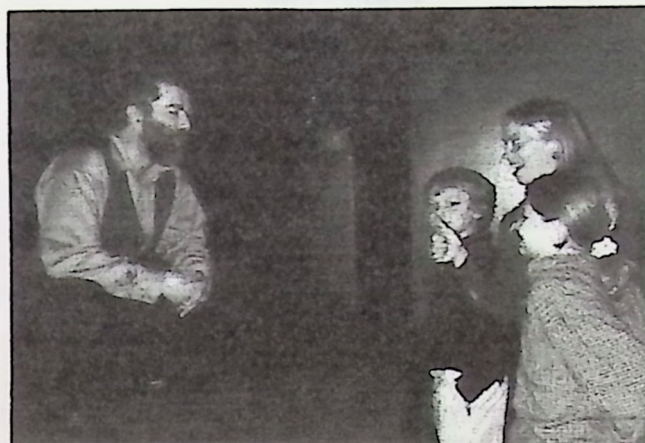
(Rebecca, age 11, lives on Little Applegate Road with her older sister Linnae, mom Lorie and dad James. The family moved their nursery business here last year and they are very active in the community.)

A Reminder ...

This newsletter is now available on our website:

www.buncom.org

More from the Trail Band



The Trail Band's Mick Doherty chats during intermission with Society members Laurie Wise, Alex and Mariah.

DIRECTORS

Reeve Hennion, President 899-7656
Lyn Hennion

J.B. Roberts, Secretary 899-1125
Carolyn Roberts, Treasurer

Ben Fowler 899-7805
Connie Fowler

The Buncom Historical Society is a non-profit corporation dedicated to preserving the buildings and history of the ghost town of Buncom, Oregon. Society address: 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

On the Internet:
www.buncom.org

To join the Society, send \$5.00 with your name and address to the Society at 3232 Little Applegate Road, Jacksonville, OR 97530.

**THANKS TO THESE NEW OR RENEWING
MEMBERS**

G.C. Wales, Yreka, CA
Bones & Barb Wright, Bodega Bay, CA
Halbert Bailey, Hayden, ID
Albert Drexel, Greenville, NY
Larry & Donna Anderson, Jacksonville, OR
Glenn & Colista Bailey, Jacksonville, OR
Dennis & Judy Barr, Medford, OR
Denni & Doug Bateman, Jacksonville, OR
Bud & Mary Jo Bergstrom, Medford, OR
Fitz and Ann Brewer, Medford, OR
Mario & Edith Campagna, Medford, OR
Jeannine Cantrall, Jacksonville, OR
Len & Celia Carnighan, Jacksonville, OR
Don Coffman, Medford, OR
Carroll & Lucille Cummins, Grants Pass, OR
Duane & Linda Daniels, Medford, OR
Edmund Dews, Ashland, OR
Gerald & Sharley Doran, Phoenix, OR
Chris Dudley, Salem, OR
Bon & Laurie Dysart, Medford, OR
Mrs. Lewis "Babe" Fields, Williams, OR
Don & Mary Flower, Jacksonville, OR
Ben & Connie Fowler, Jacksonville, OR
Pat Gordon, Jacksonville, OR
Dorann Gunderson, Medford, OR
Bonnie Guokas, Jacksonville, OR
John & Ethel Hassen, Medford, OR
Laurie Wise & Doug Hennion, Eugene, OR
Reeve & Lyn Hennion, Jacksonville, OR
Tom & Evelyn Hennion, Medford, OR
Jeff & Betsy Hennion, Pittsburgh, PA
Petra & Bob Irwin, Jacksonville, OR
Jim & Ellen Knapp, Medford, OR
Carl & Barbara Krack, Jacksonville, OR
Haydn & Cora Lee, Jacksonville, OR
Newt & Marge Likely, Jacksonville, OR
Dick and Margot Loveland, Bend, OR
Bill & Susie Mackey, Gold Hill, OR
Frank & Sue Maesen, Jacksonville, OR
Lind & Effa McBeth, Jacksonville, OR
Rita McDonagh, Jacksonville, OR
Jerry & Nancy McGrew, Jacksonville, OR
Warren & Audrey Merz, Jacksonville, OR
Tam & Ann Moore, Medford, OR
Jackie & Harlan Musch, Jacksonville, OR
Don Greene & Niki Newkirk, Ashland, OR
Joe Ormond, Jacksonville, OR

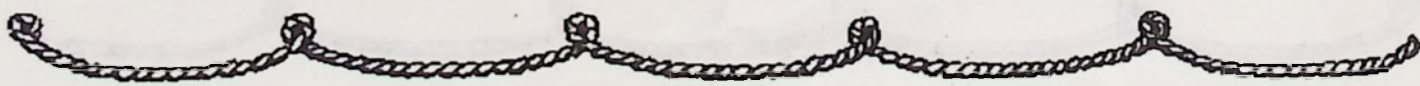
Ken & Jo Anne Phillips, Jacksonville, OR
Jim & Ginny Post, Central Point, OR
Bob & Charlotte Powell, Medford, OR
Al & Roxanne Pratt, Medford, OR
Sue & Peter Rasmussen, Medford, OR
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg, Jacksonville, OR
Phyllis Runals, Grants Pass, OR
J.B. & Carolyn Roberts, Jacksonville, OR
Tom & Chris Russell, Jacksonville, OR
Steve and Mary Ryder, Medford, OR
Don & Sandy Shaffer, Jacksonville, OR
Dennis & Norma Smith, Jacksonville, OR
Otto & Ginny Spechtenhauser, Jacksonville, OR
Fred & Martha Straube, Jacksonville, OR
Bill & Angela Thorndike, Medford, OR
Don & Elaine Turcke, Medford, OR
Waite Family Living Trust, Tulare, CA
Steve & Priscilla Weaver, Jacksonville, OR
Iris Wells, Medford, OR
G. Greeley Wells Jr., Jacksonville, OR
John & Evelyn Wigen, Jacksonville, OR
Clarence & Evelyn Williams, Jacksonville, OR
Matt & Suzy Wiggins, & Katie, Odessa, TX
Rod Vanderhoof, Bumpass, VA

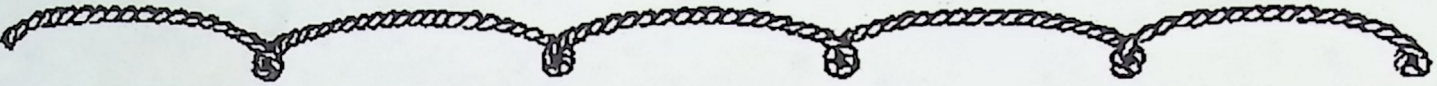
A SPECIAL THANKS ...

Along with their dues, several of our members sent additional donations. We would like to offer our additional thanks for their generous support:

Haydn & Cora Lee
Clarence & Evelyn Williams
Dennis & Judy Barr
Otto & Ginny Spechtenhauser
C. Lind & Effa McBeth
Tom & Evelyn Hennion
Bon & Laurie Dysart
Bones & Barb Wright
Elmer & Colista Bailey
Harlan & Jackie Musch
Frank & Sue Maesen
Dick & Margot Loveland
Don & Sandy Shaffer
Bob & Charlotte Powell
Marvin & Lilli Ann Rosenberg
Doug & Denni Bateman
Mario & Edith Campagna
Fred & Martha Straube
In Memory of Keith & Ione Waite

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It's Membership Renewal Time

If your name isn't on the list on page 4, you haven't renewed your membership yet. Please send your \$5.00 per family with the form below to the address at the bottom. Thanks.

BUNCOM HISTORICAL SOCIETY MEMBERSHIP DUES

Here are my/our membership dues for 2003. Enclosed is \$5.00 for an individual or family membership.

Here is my/our name as we would like it to appear on the mailing list:

Name: _____

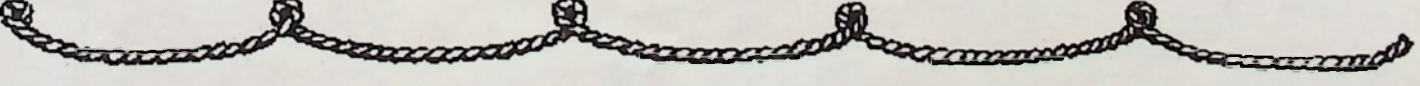
Address: _____

City, St, Zip: _____

Phone: _____

Comments: _____

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